

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1 (currently amended). A liner for a ladle, the liner comprising a body of refractory material defining a hollow interior, the body having a continuous sidewall bounding said hollow interior, a lower closure floor and an open top, a barrier of refractory material facing an interior surface of part of the sidewall and being spaced inwardly therefrom in said hollow interior, the barrier extending from at or near the open top of the body towards said lower closure floor to define, with said facing part of said sidewall, a spout for discharging molten metal, in use, from said interior of the ladle, the barrier having two longitudinal edge surfaces, two facing inner portions of the sidewall being extended inwardly, said longitudinal edge surfaces of the barrier being received at said inwardly extended portions respectively, thereby positioning said barrier at said inward spacing from, and facing, said interior surface of part of the sidewall, wherein said liner has a cylindrical or truncated cone shape outer surface and said spout does not extend outwardly of said outer surface.

2 (original). A liner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the longitudinal edge surfaces of the barrier are received in respective complementary grooves in said inwardly extended portions respectively.

3 (original). A liner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein respective projections of said inwardly extended portions are received in complementary grooves in said longitudinal

edge surfaces respectively.

4 (original). A liner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said inwardly extended portions of the sidewall provide respective flat facing surfaces.

5 (original). A liner as claimed in Claim 4, in which said flat facing surfaces are parallel.

6 (previously presented). A liner as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said barrier is flat, and its longitudinal edge surfaces are received at said facing surfaces respectively, with said flat barrier being disposed normal to said flat facing surfaces.

7 (original). A liner as claimed in Claim 1, in which refractory cement is used to fix the barrier in place at said inwardly extended portions.

8 (original). A liner as claimed in Claim 1, in which the barrier is secured in place as part of the manufacture of the body of the liner.

9 (original). A liner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier terminates spaced from the lower closure floor of said body.

10 (original). A liner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier extends to the lower closure floor of said body, with there being an aperture therein adjacent its lower

end.

11 (original). A liner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier extends from the level of the open top of said body.

12 (original). A liner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier is in the form of a refractory or ceramic tile.

13 (original). A liner as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the tile is of castable material.

14 (canceled).

15 (original). A liner as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrier is flat.

16 (currently amended). A ladle comprising an outer metal shell defining a hollow interior, the shell having a continuous inner sidewall, bounding said interior of the shell, a lower closure floor and an open top, and the ladle also comprising a liner, retained in said interior of the shell, in use, the liner comprising a body of refractory material defining a hollow interior, the body having a continuous sidewall bounding said hollow interior, a lower closure floor and an open top, a barrier of refractory material facing an interior surface of part of the sidewall of the body and being spaced inwardly therefrom in said hollow interior of the liner, the barrier extending from at or near the

open top of the body towards said lower closure floor of the liner to define, with said facing part of said inner sidewall of the liner, a spout for discharging molten metal, in use, from said interior of the liner, the barrier having two longitudinal edge surfaces, two facing portions of the inner sidewall of the liner being extended inwardly, said longitudinal edge surfaces of the barrier being received at said inwardly extended portions respectively, thereby positioning said barrier at said inward spacing from and facing, said interior surface of part of the sidewall, wherein said liner has a cylindrical or truncated cone shape outer surface and said spout does not extend outwardly of said outer surface.

17 (original). A ladle as claimed in Claim 16, in which the shell has a lip extending outwardly thereof at said open top, for pouring molten metal from the ladle.

18 (canceled).

19 (canceled).

20 (canceled)